

CONFERENCE *connection*

Alabama • Georgia • Mississippi
South Carolina • Tennessee • NW Florida

SOUTHEAST UCC Conference



December 1, 2016

From the Conference Office

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Mailing Address

Please make note that our mailing address is now Southeast Conference United Church of Christ, Post Office Box 1950, Decatur, GA 30031-1950.

2016 Giving Deadline is January 10, 2017

The Southeast Conference will close the books for 2016 on January 10, 2017. Please ensure that all remittances for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and any special offerings or special gifts are RECEIVED by that date. Any funds received after January 10 will be counted as 2017 giving.

June's Jottings

by June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister

As we close this year of Jubilee, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ, I am so grateful for all the wonderful people and significant ministries that are happening across this vibrant Conference. Though I still have much to do, with the capable help of staff and Conference leadership, this is a time of reflection for me—to see what is still undone and prioritize or let it go, to cast a critical eye over what has been accomplished and see places that it might be improved, to prepare to receive the next one who is called to lead these people, and to give thanks for all that God has accomplished in this season of ministry in my life and the life of the Conference.



I ask that you keep the Interim Conference Minister Search Committee in your prayers as they do their work of process and discernment. I ask you to keep staff in prayer as we look to the end of our lease with First Congregational Atlanta and all the tasks to close the physical office location. I ask you to keep the Board of Directors in prayer as they take up their tasks in this time of transition and keep the Conference functioning and on a steady path. I ask your prayers for the Commission on Ministry as they serve the more than 40 persons who are seeking authorized ministry in various forms, being faithful to the

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Coming Events

**Authorizing Ministry in
the 21st Century**
Nov 30 - Dec 3, 2016
San Antonio, Texas

**Board of Directors
Meeting**
December 6, 2016
Web Meeting

SEC Staff Meeting
Thu, Dec 8, 2016
Conference Office

**Conference Moves to a
Virtual Office**
January 1, 2017

OCWM Giving

expectations of the United Church of Christ in oversight of ministers and ministries, and seeking to strengthen relationships with local churches. I ask your understanding and patience and affirmation as we move into a new horizon of a virtual office and new patterns of ministry.

I want to express a special word of thanks for the gifts that Michael Stroud has offered to the Southeast Conference. He has been the de facto historian of the Conference for many years. His collections of archival materials and his knowledge of the history of the Conference have been invaluable to me in understanding who these peculiar and particular people are and enriching my ministry among you. His articles written for each month of this year and the publication of our 50th anniversary history have greatly enriched and informed us all. It has been a labor of love and care.

As we see the familiar symbols of Advent and Christmas around us, I am finding that I am keeping an Easter image before me—that of the chrysalis and the butterfly emerging to beauty and new life. That is my experience of the Southeast Conference. We welcomed two new churches into full fellowship in November. We have had seven ordinations in my time here and perhaps a couple more before I leave. We are awaiting word on three Neighbors in Need local church grants which will hopefully join the ranks of the six received during my tenure here. We are announcing the next round of grant awards from the Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives capital campaign. Vibrant, beautiful, life-changing ministry is happening in our midst. My prayer for this season of waiting and birth and new life is that this time of grace and growth will continue.



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2016. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2016 prayer list.](#)

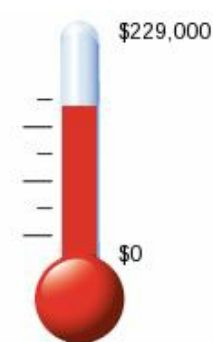
Week of December 4:

- Sandy Creek UCC-LaFayette, Alabama
- John Lackey
- Kenneth Samuel
- Edward Schneider
- Sonya Williams

Week of December 11:

- Jones Chapel Congregational Christian-Woodbury, Georgia
- First Congregational UCC-Marion, Alabama
- Deborah Douglas
- Richard Lammers
- Paige Pearson Wimberly

Prayer Requests



To Date: \$156,325

Our Church's Wider Mission provides for programs, resources, and tools to keep our churches strong, effective, and growing. We're currently at 68% of our goal!

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- Gratitude for safe travel over the Thanksgiving holiday and the gathering of friends and families and the generous spirit of those who served and fed others.
- Continued prayers for all those present at **Standing Rock, North Dakota** and all those who are standing in solidarity and providing for their needs.
- Prayers for the members and friends of **Mother Emmanuel AME Church** and the people of Charleston as the trial of Dylann Roof commences.
- Prayers for members of the Southeast Conference Commission on Ministry as they travel to San Antonio for the national UCC Authorizing Ministry Conference. Attending are **Valerie Coe Lowder, Michelle Holtmann, Bert Knupp, Carrole Moss, Heather Bardole**, and **Jess Chancey**.
- Prayers for the families of the students killed and injured in the school bus crash in Chattanooga and the staff and families of **Woodmore Elementary School**.

Conference Transitions

- The Southeast Conference Interim Conference Minister Search Committee has received candidate information and is proceeding with interviews and reference checks.

Churches in Transition

Oak Grove Congregational Christian, Pine Mountain Georgia; Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga Tennessee; Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Howard Congregational UCC, Nashville Tennessee; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville Tennessee.

News from Around the Conference

Two Congregations Received into Full Local Church Standing

We celebrate with TWO of our congregations who have officially joined the United Church of Christ in full standing as local churches.

Emmanuel UCC in Greenville, South Carolina was received into full standing as a local church during their regular worship service on November 27, 2016. Emmanuel UCC first gathered for worship on the first Sunday of Advent in 2013. [Read more on our website.](#)

On November 20, 2016 **Rehoboth Fellowship of Atlanta** was received into full standing as a local church during their 3:00 worship service. This worship service took place on the first anniversary of the gathering of the community for worship after a 14 month ministry planning process. Rehoboth Fellowship of Atlanta is a dually aligned congregation with the United Church of Christ and The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. [Read more on our website.](#)

250+ People "Break Down the Walls" in Huntsville Gathering

More than 250 people turned out Sunday afternoon November 13th at Temple B'nai Shalom in Huntsville, Alabama to sing, pray and march to "break down the walls" of hate and division represented by the results of the National Election on Tuesday November 8th. Taking part in the demonstration unity were over 20 area clergy. The United Church of Huntsville United Church of

Christ was proud to be presented by over a dozen members at the event. [Read more on our website.](#)

Blowing Rock Conference Center Celebrates Bourdon Ministry

William (Bill) Bourdon, Executive Director of Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, North Carolina was celebrated on Saturday, November 12, 2016 for his fifteen years of ministry at the Conference Center and forty-five years in outdoor ministry largely among United Church of Christ facilities. [Read more on our website.](#)

News from the United Church of Christ

UCC National Officers Respond to US Election

Following the recent presidential election in the US, the national officers of the United Church of Christ have written a letter to Conference and local church leadership. They write: "We are committed to supporting the important work of our churches and conferences, and to amplifying our understanding of what it means to be the church on national and international platforms." [Read the entire letter.](#)

Training, Learning and Retreat Opportunities

Winter Youth Retreat 2017

When: January 13-16, 2017

Theme: What is your purpose?

Speaker: Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri from Asheville, NC

We will welcome back Mandee and Christi from Alatheia, and are shaking up the break-out sessions by asking students from Wake Forest Divinity School to create and facilitate them. Last, we will offer a few new service opportunities.

[Download the Retreat Flyer](#)

[Download the Retreat Registration Form](#)

[Winter Youth Retreat Website](#)

UCC Scholarship Applications Open Dec 1

Ministry Education Scholarships support those preparing for ministry in the UCC and provide emergency assistance to ministers experiencing financial or personal crisis.

Leadership Development Scholarships help to support UCC undergraduate students, future seminary professors, African American laywomen, and gifted persons with disabilities, among others. The Genesis Fund accepts applications for faith-based projects that are innovative or experimental, that represent a new initiative in Christian mission, or that may be deemed controversial. UCC local churches, associations, conferences, national bodies, UCC-related institutions, and overseas/global partner churches are eligible to apply.

Scholarship application forms and grant applications open online on Thursday, December 1st. Find more scholarship information at <http://www.ucc.org/scholarships>. Questions can be emailed to scholarships@ucc.org.

Honduras Global Ministries Speakers Available to Local Churches

Don and Maryjane Westra, finishing a four year appointment in Honduras for Common Global Ministries, are available to speak in the Southeast Conference and Tennessee Region Disciples of Christ. The dates they are available are March 25 - April 9, 2017. [Learn more on our website.](#)

Save the Date: Conferences in 2017

Southern Region Women's Conference

Make plans now to join others from around our region at Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas from October 20-22, 2017. We will be hosted by the women of the South Central Conference.

UCC Musicians Conference

Their National Biennial Conference will be held July 9-12, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. The theme is Empowering Musicians, Transforming Communities. [Learn more.](#)

Employment Opportunities

Part-time Director of Children's Ministry

Central Congregational UCC in Atlanta is seeing a part-time Director of Children's Ministry. The candidate will serve 12-15 hours per week, which includes Sunday mornings and planning time throughout the week. The ideal candidate will be very comfortable communicating in a nurturing way with parents and weekly planning time will include making personal phone calls to "check in" with parents about the needs of their children. The primary focus of this position will be offering dynamic, thoughtful programming for children on Sunday morning. Currently, our church uses Godly Play curriculum for ages K-5th and we teach Our Whole Lives sexuality education every other year. The Director of Children's Ministry will be supervised by the Associate Minister and the Board of Christian Education, which holds meetings every second Monday of the month. Please send resume to Rev. Lacey Brown at lacey@central-ucc.org

Half-time Director of Online Learning

The **Center for Progressive Renewal** - CPR (a non profit leadership and congregational development organization and a member of the Ecumenical Partners) is seeking a half-time Director of Online Learning (contracted position) based in the Atlanta area. CPR has had previous success in providing webinar events, synchronous online courses and on-demand asynchronous training. The next Director of Online Learning must have an understanding of the training needs of mainline progressive church leaders and an ability to translate that into a robust, financially stable online learning program. The Online Learning Director is responsible to ensure that all accreditation and regulatory requirements for online learning are met. This position has potential to become full-time with a leader able to develop this area of work. Send a resume and three references to Rev. Gregg Carlson at gregg@progressiverenewal.org.